

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for accessing prospectus data, comprising:
~~storing financial prospectus data on at least one electronically readable medium;~~
determining a first portion of prospectus data, wherein a printed financial prospectus
comprises the first portion of prospectus data in a human-readable format;
encoding the first portion of prospectus data as a first optical bar code; and
affixing the first optical bar code to the printed financial prospectus. ~~the at least one~~
~~electronically readable medium to a printed financial prospectus, wherein the at least one~~
~~electronically readable medium comprises at least one of an optical bar code, a magnetic~~
~~strip, and an embedded computer chip; and~~
~~reading the data from the at least one electronically readable medium using a suitable~~
~~device.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
~~determining data to be stored in the at least one electronically readable medium.~~
determining a second portion of prospectus data, wherein the printed financial
prospectus comprises the second portion of prospectus data in a human-readable format;
encoding the second portion of prospectus data as a second optical bar code; and
affixing the second optical bar code to the printed financial prospectus.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising storing the~~
~~data~~ wherein the first optical bar code stores the first portion of prospectus data in a summary
format.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising storing the~~
~~data~~ wherein the first optical bar code stores the first portion of prospectus data in a
standardized format.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the first optical bar code stores a first category of information associated with the
printed financial prospectus; and

the second optical bar code stores a second category of information associated with the printed financial prospectus, wherein the first category of information is different from the second category of information.

~~data comprises at least one category of data, the method further comprising utilizing a separate electronically readable medium of the at least one electronically readable medium for separate storage of each data category.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
encrypting the first portion of prospectus data in conjunction with encoding the first portion of prospectus data as the first optical bar code.

~~encrypting the data prior to storing in the at least one electronically readable medium;~~
and

~~utilizing decryption computer software after reading for decryption of the data.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one electronically readable medium~~ first optical bar code is affixed to a cover of the printed financial prospectus.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for prospectus data management, comprising:
~~at least one electronically readable medium that stores financial prospectus data, wherein the at least one electronically readable medium comprises at least one of an optical bar code, a magnetic strip, and an embedded computer chip;~~

a printed financial prospectus comprising prospectus data in a human-readable format, wherein a first optical bar code is affixed to the printed financial prospectus, the first optical bar code storing a first portion of the prospectus data in an electronically-readable format to which the at least one electronically readable medium is affixed; and

~~a suitable device that reads bar code scanner operable to read the first portion of the prospectus data from the first optical bar code. the data contained in the at least one electronically readable medium.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein ~~the data is stored in the at least one electronically readable medium~~ the first optical bar code stores the first portion of the prospectus data in a summary format.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein ~~the data is stored in the at least one electronically readable medium~~ the first optical bar code stores the first portion of the prospectus data in a standardized format.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein:
a second optical bar code is affixed to the printed financial prospectus, the second optical bar code storing a second portion of the prospectus data in an electronically-readable format;

the first portion of the prospectus data is associated with a first category of information; and

the second portion of the prospectus data is associated with a second category of information, wherein the first category of information is different from the second category of information.

~~the data comprises at least one category of data and each category of data is stored in a separate electronically readable medium type.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the first portion of the prospectus data is encrypted in conjunction with being stored in the first optical bar code. ~~the data is stored in an encrypted format prior to storage in the at least one electronically readable medium.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the ~~at least one electronically readable medium~~ first optical bar code is affixed to a cover of the printed financial prospectus.

14. (Currently Amended) A printed prospectus, comprising:
at least one page having printed financial data; and
at least one ~~electronically readable medium~~ optical bar code containing an electronically readable version of at least a portion of the printed financial data, the at least one ~~electronically readable medium~~ optical bar code affixed to a page of the printed prospectus, ~~wherein the at least one electronically readable medium comprises at least one of an optical bar code, a magnetic strip, and an embedded computer chip.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein affixing the ~~at least one electronically readable medium~~ first optical bar code to the printed financial prospectus comprises printing the ~~at least one~~ first optical bar code on the printed financial prospectus.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim + 21, wherein affixing the ~~at least one electronically readable medium~~ first magnetic strip to the printed financial prospectus comprises incorporating the ~~at least one~~ first magnetic strip into the printed financial prospectus.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim + 24, wherein affixing the ~~at least one electronically readable medium~~ first computer chip to the printed financial prospectus comprises ~~embedding the at least one embedded computer~~ incorporating the first computer chip into the printed financial prospectus.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the printed financial prospectus comprises two or more of the following plurality of data types: data is selected from the group consisting of security information, classification information, consolidated financial information, inventory information, dilution data, asset information, debt information, past performance information, management salary information, tax information, underwriter compensation information, and operations data; and

the first portion of prospectus data is determined based at least in part on a first one of the plurality of data types;

and further comprising:

determining a second portion of prospectus data based at least in part on a second one of the plurality of data types;

encoding the second portion of prospectus data as a second optical bar code;

and

affixing the second optical bar code to the printed financial prospectus.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~3~~ wherein the summary format comprises selected portions of the financial prospectus data, 1, further comprising reading data from the first optical bar code using a bar code scanner.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 4~~ claim 19, further comprising writing the data read from the first optical bar code ~~stored in the standardized format~~ to a database.

21. (New) A method for accessing prospectus data, comprising:

determining a first portion of prospectus data, wherein a printed financial prospectus comprises the first portion of prospectus data in a human-readable format;

storing the first portion of prospectus data in an electronically-readable format on a first magnetic strip; and

affixing the first magnetic strip to the printed financial prospectus.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
determining a second portion of prospectus data, wherein the printed financial prospectus comprises the second portion of prospectus data in a human-readable format;
storing the second portion of prospectus data on a second magnetic strip; and
affixing the second magnetic strip to the printed financial prospectus.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein:
the first magnetic strip stores a first category of information associated with the printed financial prospectus; and
the second magnetic strip stores a second category of information associated with the printed financial prospectus, wherein the first category of information is different from the second category of information.

24. (New) A method for accessing prospectus data, comprising:
determining a first portion of prospectus data, wherein a printed financial prospectus comprises the first portion of prospectus data in a human-readable format;
storing the first portion of prospectus data in a first computer chip, wherein the first computer chip is readable by a smart card scanner; and
affixing the first computer chip to the printed financial prospectus.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
determining a second portion of prospectus data, wherein the printed financial prospectus comprises the second portion of prospectus data in a human-readable format;
storing the second portion of prospectus data in a second computer chip; and
affixing the second computer chip to the printed financial prospectus.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein:
the first computer chip stores a first category of information associated with the printed financial prospectus; and

the second computer chip stores a second category of information associated with the printed financial prospectus, wherein the first category of information is different from the second category of information.